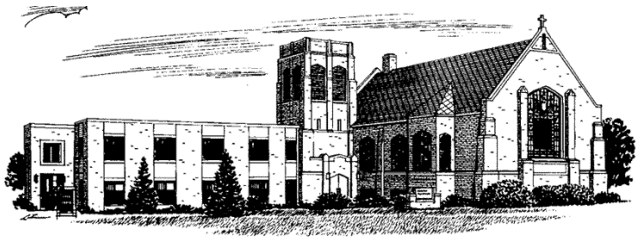
SARON NEWSLETTER

Saron Evangelical Lutheran Church (ELCA)
510 Main Street
St. Joseph, Michigan 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email: info@saronlutheran.org
Phone: 269-983-1273
Facebook: www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph



April 2014

The Rev. Joan Oleson, Pastor
Home: 269-983-2475
Email: oleson@saronlutheran.org

Marcus Roll, Senior Choir Director,
Chime Choir Director
Email: mroll@saronlutheran.org
Irma Gorman, Organist
Margaret Froehlich, Administrative Assistant
Denise Cook, Financial Secretary

Sundays at Saron:
Summers (thru Labor Day weekend):
9:30 Holy Communion
Childcare provided
No Learning Hour

During the School Year:
8:30 & 11:00 A.M. Worship
Childcare provided
9:40 Learning for Ages 2 – Adult

All are welcome!
We hold in prayer:
The Rev. Elizabeth Eaton,
Presiding Bishop, ELCA
The Rev. Dr. Craig Satterlee, Bishop of the
North/West Lower Michigan Synod, ELCA
The Rev. Whayne Hougland, Bishop of the Episcopal
Diocese of Western MI

Our Companion Synods:
Christian Lutheran Church of Honduras
Lutheran Church of Papua New Guinea
Lutheran Church of Latvia

Saron's Mission:
Joyfully sharing God's love for all!!

Holy Week Worship
Palm/Passion Sunday – April 13
Procession with Palms 8:30 & 11:00 AM

Maundy Thursday – April 17
Holy Communion, Stripping of the Altar
12:15 PM & 7:00 PM

Good Friday – April 18
Adoration of the Cross
12:15 PM & 7:00 PM

Vigil of Easter – April 19
7:00 PM

Easter, the Resurrection of our Lord
Sunday, April 20
Holy Communion – 8:30 & 11:00 AM
Easter Breakfast between services
Easter Egg Hunt – 10:15 AM

Thank you so much for all the kind words and various expressions of sympathy offered to our family at the death of my mother, Ella "Teddy" Wagstaff. Your care and concern, visits to the funeral home, food, cards, prayers, memorials, and beautiful peace plant are all signs of God's love for us and sincerely appreciated.

I also want to thank the Rev. David Slater, who filled in for me with short notice, and Dennis and Colleen Lundgren, who led Mid-Week worship.

Blessed are those who die in the Lord. Rev. 14:13

Pastor Joan

Caring and Sharing

In Our Prayers –

We remember in our thoughts and prayers: **Arlene Malkin** is at Pine Ridge Room 236, 4368 Cleveland Ave. Stevensville, MI 49127 ; **Arla Huelsberg** is at the Whitcomb Tower Retirement Center, St. Joseph; **Ruth Harris** is at Lakeland's Berrien Center Campus, 6418 Dean's Hill Road; **Ev Maki** is at Caretel; **Lila Roethel** is at the Willows; **Elvera Freier** is at Crownpointe Senior Living, Stevensville; **Dorris Doutt** is at Woodland Terrace, Bridgman and **Eleanor Anderson** at home.

Serving in the military:

Ed Standen – Charleston, SC
Marko Wedde – North Carolina
Andy Wedde – North Carolina

New Church Directories

Pick up your copy of Saron's new church directory. They are printed and ready for your use. Please call the church office with any corrections.

Office Hours at Saron

Margaret (secretary): Mon-Tues, 9 AM - 1 PM
Weds of Newsletter Week, 9 AM - 1 PM
Volunteers: Weds, 9 AM - 11 AM+
Denise (financial secretary): times vary
Call for other times/changes

Pastor: most mornings, except Fridays
When Pastor is out of town, emergency pastoral care information can be obtained by calling the church office (983.1273) or contacting the president of the congregation.
Note: E-mails meant for Pastor should be addressed to oleson@saronlutheran.org. E-mails to Margaret and the church office should be addressed to info@saronlutheran.org.

Happy Birthday Wishes to Saron's Members in April 2014

APR . 1 - Sharon Sible
Shadden Talbert-Gulley
3 - Brian Culverhouse
4 – Cheryl Houser
Shawn de la Foret
Whitney (Johnson) Burk
6 - Betty Appel
8 - Janet Larson
11 - Alaina Bradley
13 - Marilyn Lucy
14 - Lorelei Gorman
Brandon Borr
15 - Carleen Knauf
19 - Robert Kynast
21 - Fritz Knauf
Andy Wedde
23 – Juliet Jacob
25 - Gayle Peterson
C'Ella Mae Williams
Clem Brueck
26 - Tom Siewert
Michael Breyen
27 - Linda Pater
28 - Brooke Henderson
29 - Alexander Tzouanakis

"God's Blessings for a very happy day and year round"

Please submit any corrections to the church office at 983-1273. Thanks.

Baptism of Jonah Rood, March 9, 2014 with mom, Allison. Jonah was born on January 16. Welcome, Jonah!

Congratulations to Ed & Amanda Standen upon the birth of their daughter, Catherine Josephine, on March 4, 2014. Also, to grandparents Eric and Deb, uncles Tim and Phill, and great-grandmother, Ruth Hahn!

Worship

SUNDAY SCRIPTURE READINGS

As you prepare for worship, you are invited to read and reflect on the Scriptures for the day.

Sunday April 6 –
Fifth Sunday in Lent
Ezekiel 37:1-14
Psalm 130 (5)
Romans 8:6-1
John 11:1-45

Sunday April 13 –
Sunday of the Passion/Palm Sunday
Matthew 21:1-11 Procession with Palms
Isaiah 50:4-9a
Psalm 31:9-16 (5)
Philippians 2:5-11
Matthew 26:14—27:66

Thursday April 17 –
Maundy Thursday
Exodus 12:1-4 (5-10) 11-14
Psalm 116:1-2, 12-19 (13)
1 Corinthians 11:23-26
John 13:1-17, 31b-35

Friday April 18 –
Good Friday
Isaiah 52:13—53:12
Psalm 22 (1)
Hebrews 10:16-25 or Hebrews 4:14-16; 5:7-9
John 18:1—19:42

Sunday April 20 –
Resurrection of Our Lord-Easter Day
Acts 10:34-43 or Jeremiah 31:1-6
Psalm 118:1-2, 14-24 (24)
Colossians 3:1-4 or Acts 10:34-43
Matthew 28:1-10 or John 20:1-18

Sunday April 27 –
Second Sunday of Easter
Acts 2:14a, 22-32
Psalm 16 (11)
1 Peter 1:3-9
John 20:19-31

Into the Wild – Wednesday Evenings in Lent.
Soup Suppers at 6 pm
Worship and Activities at 7 pm

Prayer

Join us on Mondays at 11:00 a.m. for a time of quiet reflection and prayer, which will include lifting up the requests offered on Sundays at worship. We meet in the sanctuary.

Flowers for Worship

Flowers can be purchased for worship by signing up on the flower chart in the narthex. Cost is $25. Please write "flowers" on the memo line of your check or on your envelope with cash. The flowers are ordered through the church office, unless otherwise designated

Learning

book of faith
Open Scripture. Join the Conversation.

Saron is a congregation seeking to become more fluent in the first language of faith, the language of Scripture, in order that we might live into our calling as a people renewed, enlivened, empowered and sent by the Word.

Bible Study – Wednesday Mid-day

There will be NO Wednesday Mid-day Bible study during Lent . We will resume our discussion on April 30.

High School and Adult Forum

Join us on Sunday mornings at 9:40 in the lounge. Presently, we are watching the DVD series entitled *Lost Christianities* which considers the varieties of belief and practice in the early days of Christianity.

Thursday Morning Bible Study

We will not meet during Lent. Join us again after Easter, beginning April 24, for a 4-week study on Ephesians. Cost of the book is $5.25.

1ST SUNDAY BOOK CLUB

The Light between Oceans, by M.L. Stedman, will be up for discussion on Sunday, April 6th at 6:30 in the upstairs lounge. This poignant story chronicles a marriage that has its beginnings in a lighthouse on the coast of Australia. When a boat washes up on shore carrying a dead man and a living baby; life changing, heart-rending choices are made. Markus Zusak, author of The Book Thief, puts it best:"An extraordinary book about good people, tragic decisions and the beauty found in each of them".

We will finish the first part of our 2014 season in May by reading *Room*, by Emma Donoghue. In this novel, a mother held captive in an 11x11 room for seven years creates a life within this room for her five year old son. This is a shocking story of love and the unbreakable bond between a mother and child.

There will be lots to talk about with this book. Also, please come with ideas for good reads for next season. All suggestions are welcome and if you have any questions please contact Kathie Bradley (269-427-7083) or Kathy Cowall (269-428-0354).

Men's monthly Bible Devotions and Breakfast

Men's Bible Devotions/Breakfast will be on April 5th, 2014 at 9:00 a.m. at the church. Gather at Saron for a devotion followed by breakfast at a local restaurant.

Outreach

Benton Harbor Soup Kitchen

The Soup Kitchen has a Wish List for the following items: GROUND COFFEE, DICED TOMATOES, TOMATO SAUCE, SPAGHETTI SAUCE, COFFEE CREAMER, AND BARBEQUE SAUCE. If you bring these items to church I will make sure that they get delivered to the Soup Kitchen.

Also, donations of cans of fruit, large or small, are always welcome and needed for our days at the kitchen. Please bring your contributions to the church. Thank you! Also, 28-30 dozen cookies are needed each month!!! So, if you like to bake..... call me!!

Thanks, Jan Stevens 429-2044

Meet Me at the Freezer

Meals are available for anyone to take to someone who might need one. Enjoying a visit and providing a meal is a wonderful way to tell someone that YOU CARE! The meals are in the freezer in Saron's dining room! If you would like to be involved when we cook again, please contact Jan Stevens @ 429-2044.

CROP WALK

Spring is here and it is time to get out and WALK!!! The 35th Blossomland Crop Walk will be held on May 18, 2014 at 2:30 pm. Saron has participated in the Crop Walk for many years. Saron has a water station for walkers and we also recruit walkers and raise money for this community event. Last year over $48,000 was raised at the Blossomland Crop Walk; 25% is distributed to local agencies.
Please consider getting involved: walking, giving a donation or working at the water station!
Thank you to Steve Bell and Keith Stevens for being our 2014 Recruiters!

Catch the Dream's S.M.A.R.T. Tutor Program - Benton Harbor Area Schools

The next session for this tutoring opportunity begins the week of April 7, 2014. The session will end at the end of May. The program is a one on one tutoring program with a first - sixth grader in the Benton Harbor Schools. You meet one hour a week, all supplies are provided. Saron members: Brad Frey, Mary Alice Brunner, Pastor Joan and Jan Stevens, became involved in February, we have all found this to be a very positive and rewarding opportunity. Please consider MAKING a DIFFERENCE in the life of a child. If you need more information call Jan Stevens 429-2044 or go to the website www.bhas.org/smart
Thank you ---- "Gods Work. Our Hands."

Used Eye Glass Collection

The Lions of St.Joseph Township would like to thank all of the people of Saron for you contribution of glasses to our global mission to assist people to see better. The collection box is still available for all to continue to put old or no longer needed glasses in. "Remember this is a great way for you house or dwelling to lose a little weight by shedding those unwanted glasses."
Thanks, Keith Stevens

Blood Drive Results

We had 22 people attempt to give blood during our February Blood drive and 21 were accepted. On behalf of Joyce Marquardt and Keith Stevens, we would like to thank all who came and gave blood and help to make the blood drive a successful one.

LWR Fair Trade

We support Lutheran World Relief Fair Trade farmers through our selling of coffee, tea, cocoa and chocolate at cost. We have flavored coffee, decaf, medium and dark roast coffees, black and green teas. Please support this ministry by purchasing these products regularly for yourself and as gifts. Thank you.

Women of the ELCA

Deborah Circle's meeting on April 9, 2014 after the Lenten soup supper and worship service at church. Gift bags will be assembled for Saron's homebound and nursing home/assisted living members. Everyone should bring a small container of hand lotion and an Easter card.

TO ALL WOMEN. SAVE THE DATE!

This years women's retreat will be held on Saturday, Oct ober 11, 2014. Be sure to mark your calendars for this fun filled day. If you have any questions, feel free to call Linda Pater at 468-3303. More information will be provided closer to retreat time.

Hospitality

Sign Up for Refreshments

Please consider signing up for refreshments to be served after worship on Sundays. We like to have something after both early and late services. There is a sign-up sheet on the Narthex bulletin board.

Youth

Living Water Ministries
A Shared Mission of the Lower Michigan Synods, ELCA

It's time to think about summer and camp! Check out our synod's camping ministry at the following website. http://www.elcalivingwater.com/
There is something for everyone! Registration is now open! Brochures are also available at church.

Mission Trip Planned to Racine, WI!

It's time for another fundraiser to help send 5 of our youth (Tim Standen, Connor Ashley, Drew Huff, Colin Ashley, and Austin Kamala) and 2 adults (Ed Brunner and Eric Standen) to Racine, Wisconsin for a work camp in June. The week's theme is "Repairing Home and Lives." You are invited to be a stockholder in the group. The cost is $1 per share and any amount of shares can be purchased and any age of person can purchase stock(s).

As a stock holder you will receive 1) a stockholder's certificate, 2) postcard(s) from our trip, and 3) participation in a stockholder's meeting upon the group's return, which includes an ice cream social (for stockholders only) and presentation of our trip with pictures and reflections! Plus, you will have the joy of giving this group of youth a wonderful experience as they demonstrate Jesus' love and compassion to the people through painting, building wheelchair ramps, doing interior and exterior carpentry, or performing other home repair projects.

Stock will go on sale, after each service, April 13, 27, and May 4. Or, you can purchase stock from any of the participants.

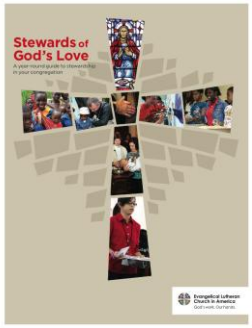
Thank you for your support!

A HUGE Thank You!

Over 100 subs were sold! Thanks to all of you for your generous support in helping us get to Racine! And, to our moms, who helped in making the sale happen.

--Tim, Connor, Drew, Austin, and Colin

Support



You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest commandment. And a second is like it. You shall love your neighbor as yourself.

Matthew 22:37b-39

IN: WHAT GOD HAS ENTRUSTED TO OUR CARE

April: Stewards of Money

"Money is a powerful force in our lives. Jesus says that what we do with our money has the ability to take our heart with it (Luke 12:34). God cares about what we do with 100 percent of our money, not just the fraction that we give to the church. How do we steward all of our money and make sure that the ways we use money aligns with our values?"
www.elca.org/growingstewards, page 25

Do we support our congregation's initiatives? Do we honor our pledges to support God's mission here at Saron. This Lenten season we are also collecting dollars for the ELCA Good Gifts program by buying chicks, honeybees, goats, and pigs to help people living in poverty escape hunger, grow crops, and provide income.

However, there are many ways to support God's work. Where are we giving money to God's mission outside of our giving here at Saron? Are there nonprofits, Lutheran social ministry organizations, scholarship programs, etc. that we support? Do these programs use the money in ways that align with Christian values and in God-pleasing ways?

God has entrusted much to our care. "God gives in abundance that we might share in abundance. When we realize that all we have belongs to God and not to us, we can't help but give it away in thanksgiving for God's generosity to us."
www.elca.org/growingstewards, page 7

God's work, our hands.

A Special Message for Travelers and Those Who Prefer Electronic Giving

If you know you'll be missing services any time during the year due to travel, living in another location during certain times of the year or other commitments, please consider setting up automatic contributions. Your consistent support is very much appreciated. Saron offers the option to give electronically for your convenience. Please contact the church office if you have any questions. Thanks .

Council News

Vision Statements:

Facilities

Create a physical environment that will support our ministry

Hospitality – Inclusivity and Welcoming

Offer for all, Christ's radical hospitality.

Worship

Provide enhanced relevant worship experiences.

Outreach

Serve our community with 100% participation of those who worship at Saron.

Youth

Strive to encourage each of our youth to grow into their unique potential for a Christ centered life.

Learning

Center our lives in Christ through life-long learning

Attendance Record	
02/23/2014	*84*
03/02/2014	*91*
03/09/2014	*82*
03/16/2014	96

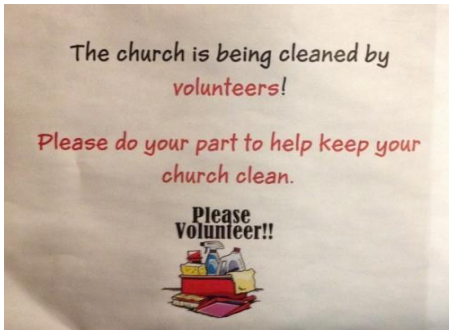
Saron's Council Members – 2014

Mary Kynast (428-0148) – President
Dave Bradley (427-70834) – Vice President
Eric Standen (556-9629) – Treasurer
Scott Gaspari (847-373-8825) – Secretary, Learning*
Mary Alice Brunner (248-767-9026) – Worship*
Steve Bell (429-0239) – Facilities*
Ken Ark (269-369-4766) – Youth*
Connor Ashley – (269-930-5989) – Youth*
Joyce Marquardt (408-8650) – Support*
Frieda Williams – Hospitality*
Jan Stevens (429-2044) – Outreach*
Joan Oleson (983-1273 office; 983-2475 home) – Pastor

**liaison*

Facilities

GOLDEN HAMMERS NEEDS HELP!



Golden Hammers is a group of volunteers at Saron that meets every Wednesday from 9:30 up to noon. They are women and men that gather to do various jobs in and outside of the church that help keep Saron looking good and also saving the church a considerable amount of money in cleaning and maintenance expenses. The work is not hard - mainly folding bulletins, preparing the monthly newsletter for mailing, preparing the sanctuary for Sunday morning, minor maintenance and cleaning/vacuuming of the church. If you would like to have more information on volunteering please talk to Dennis or Colleen Lundgren or Bill Oleson.

Interested in stories of the ELCA at work?
Check out http://www.elca.org/living-lutheran/ to read daily conversations about what it means to live Lutheran. **Living Lutheran**, a ministry of the ELCA, includes blogs, videos and member voices.

Lay Assistants for April - 2014

April 6 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Wendy King
Reader/Com.Assist: Dana Riley
Acolyte: Jenna Henderson
Ushers: Keith Stevens and Allen Snyder
Nursery: Katie Hebner

April 13 (Palm Sunday) 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Eric Standen
Reader/Intinction: Jim Manore
Ushers: Walt and Sally Schmuhl
Acolyte: Danielle Hohman
Nursery: Katie Hebner

April 17 (Maundy Thursday) 7:00 p.m.
Reader/Intinction: Jim Oleson
Ushers: Jerry and Ruth Stelling

April 20 (Easter Sunday) 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Marilyn Frey
Reader/ Com. Assist: Sue Rood
Acolytes: Brandon & Troy Burrow, Carter Hohman, and Jenna Henderson
Ushers: John and Kerri Hoodlebrink
Nursery: Katie Hebner

April 27 8:30 a.m.
Assisting Minster: Jan Stevens
Reader/Intinction: Wendy King
Acolyte: Tim Standen
Ushers: John Olson and Fritz Knauf
Nursery: Katie Hebner

Thank you for your willingness to serve. If a conflict arises for your scheduled time, please find a replacement or change with another volunteer.
Calling the church office (983-1273) to alert us to changes will help us keep the bulletin as accurate as possible and know that everyone is in place on a Sunday morning.

April 6 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Catherine Ravitch
Reader/Com.Assist: Bob Kynast
Acolyte: Connor Ashley
Ushers: Betty Appel and Pat Breyen
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Krin Jurgensen
Building Closing: Jerry and Ruth Stelling

April 13 (Palm Sunday) 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Connor Ashley
Reader/Intinction: Brian Culverhouse
Ushers: Ken Ark and Ivan Kiessel
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Marilyn Klann
Building Closing: **Bob and Mary Kynast**

April 18 (Good Friday) 7:00 p.m.
Reader/Intinction: Jan Stevens
Ushers: Peter and Karen Johnson

April 20 (Easter Sunday) 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minister: Denise Cook
Reader/ Com. Assist: Colleen Lundgren
Acolytes: Connor & Colin Ashley, Drew Huff
Ushers: Andy and Joyce Marquardt
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Linda Huff
Building Closing: **Bruce Huff**

April 27 11:00 a.m.
Assisting Minster: Bill Oleson
Reader/Intinction: Frieda Williams
Acolyte: Meredith Gacek
Ushers: Dave and Kathie Bradley
Nursery: Katie Hebner and Marilyn Lucy
Building Closing: **Ken Ark**

SARON LUTHERAN CHURCH
510 MAIN STREET
ST. JOSEPH, MI 49085

Website: www.saronlutheran.org
Email:info@saronlutheran.org

A Congregation of:
The North/West Lower Michigan Synod
Evangelical Lutheran Church in America

April 2014

We're on Facebook! Like us at
www.facebook.com/saronlutheranchurchst.joseph

Easter Plants and ELCA Good Gifts Livestock Order
(Order Forms available at church)

_____*White Easter Lily 6.5" @$9.00* _____

_____*Tulip 6.5"*

(_____) *Pink* @$8.25_____
(_____) *Pink* @$8.25_____
(_____) *Yellow* @$8.25_____

DUE APRIL 6

_____*Chicks (10)* *@$10.00* _____

_____*Honey Bees* *@$20.00* _____

_____*Pig* *@$30.00* _____

_____*Goat* *@$50.00* _____

General Donation $_____

DUE EASTER SUNDAY ***(Gifts received by April 13 will be listed in the bulletin.)***

Gifts are given…

In honor of _____

In memory of _____

Other _____

Your Name _____

Amount_____ Will Send _____

APRIL 2014

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1	2 9:30am G. Hammers 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Worship	3 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	4	5 9:00 a.m. Men's Devotion/Breakfast
H.Com/Children.Ser 6 5th Sunday in Lent 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:40am Sunday Church School Classes. 6:30 p.m. 1st Sunday Book Group	7 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	8	9 9:30am G. Hammers 6:00 pm Soup Supper 7:00 pm Worship	10 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00pm Senior Choir Rehearsal	11	12
Intinction/Child's Ser. 13 ***Sunday of the Passion /Palm Sunday*** *8:30 &11:00 am Worship* *9:40am S.C. S. Classes*	14 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group **Newsletter Articles Due**	15 3:30 p.m. Vasa Meeting at Saron	16 9:30am G. Hammers	17 **Maundy Thursday** 12:15pm. & 7:00 pm. Worship with Holy Communion Striping of the Altar	18 **Good Friday** 12:15pm & 7:00 pm. Adoration of the Cross	19 **Vigil of Easter** 7:00pm. Worship with Communion
H.Com/Children.Ser20 **Resurrection of Our Lord** *8:30 &11:00 am Worship* *9:30 - 10:30 am Breakfast* ***NO** Sunday church School classes* *10:15am Easter Egg Hunt*	21 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group 7:00 p.m Saron Council Meeting	22	23 9:30am G. Hammers	24 9:30am Bible Study 6:00pm Chime Choir 7:00pm Senior Choir Rehearsal *Soup Kitchen*	25	26
Intinction/Child'sSer. 27 2nd Sunday of Easter 8:30 & 11:00 am Worship 9:40am Sunday Church School Classes	28 11:00 a.m. Prayer Group	29	30 9:30am G. Hammers 1:00 p.m. Bible Study	March S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	May S M T W T F S 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31	